Annotated Reference List of Kinship Resources 2010-2013

Collaborating with Kinship Caregivers: A Research-to-Practice, Competency-Based Training Program for Child Welfare Workers and Their Supervisors.
Child Welfare League of America.
2013
This 12-hour curriculum, approved by CWLA's National Kinship Care Advisory Committee, presents a "Collaboration Model of Practice" to teach professionals how to facilitate collaboration with kinship caregivers to enhance child safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes for children in their care. The collaboration model of practice addresses a range of issues identified by the research that informed this curriculum, with objectives that: (1) Explain why kinship care became a policy and practice choice and challenge; (2) Identify major issues of concern requiring collaboration between social workers and kinship caregivers, including: legal; financial; health/mental health; schooling; child behavior and trauma; family relationships and trauma; support services; fair and equal treatment; and general satisfaction/recommendations; (3) Demonstrate collaboration competencies, including: respecting the knowledge, skills, and experiences of others; building trust by meeting needs; creating a relationship that addresses the dynamics of attachment versus authority, and demographic diversity; and using negotiation skills; and (4) Present how collaboration works in assessing kinship families, placing children, supporting families, and transitioning them to community-based support. This curriculum, field-tested across the country, is designed for public, private, and faith-based child welfare professionals who work directly with kinship caregivers and want to learn the skills identified in the objectives listed above. Agency supervisors and managers are encouraged to participate. Community advocates and kinship care researchers also will find this program of value, as will agency and university-based trainers who want to teach this curriculum. Kinship caregivers who are co-facilitators for training would find this curriculum of value. Kinship caregivers are encouraged to learn this model of practice, as well; however CWLA is reissuing Traditions of Caring: A Collaboration Approach to Kinship Care, which is designed specifically for kinship caregivers. (Author abstract)

Nurturing Attachments Training Resource: Running Parenting Groups for Adoptive Parents and Foster or Kinship Carers. (forthcoming September 2013)
Golding, Kim S.
2013

Child and Family Services Policy Manual: Substitute Care for Children: Placement in Unlicensed Kinship Care.
Child and Family Services Policy Manual ; Section 402-4.
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Child and Family Services Division.
2013
Regulations are presented for the placement of Montana children in kinship care. The definition of kinship care is provided, followed by regulations that address: emergency placement, visits to the kinship home by the Child Protection Specialist, the responsibility of the Child Protection Specialist in placing the children when it is in the best interest of the child and the home is approved, determination of the best interests of the child, selection of the family for kinship placement, review of the options of licensed or unlicensed care with the kinship family, and required background checks. Information is then provided on the required kinship care agreement, and a copy of the kinship care agreement is included.
http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/cfsdmanual/402-4.pdf

Kinship Care and the Fostering Connections Act.
Perspectives on Fostering Connections: A Series of White Papers on The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.
Allen, MaryLee. Miller, Jennifer.
FosteringConnections.org.
Children's Defense Fund.
2013
Kinship care provisions in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act are

reviewed, including the identification and notice requirement, the Federal and State parent locator service, the waiver for no-safety licensing standards, the Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program, requirements for maintaining sibling connections, and the authorization of Family Connections grants to test innovative approaches to kinship care. Challenges and achievements relating to these provisions are discussed.

http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/state-data-repository/perspectives-on-fostering.pdf

Latino Families in the Nexus of Child Welfare, Welfare Reform, and Immigration Policies: Is Kinship Care a Lost Opportunity?
Ayón, Cecilia. Aisenberg, Eugene. Cimino, Andrea.
2013
Social Work
58 (1) p. 91-94
The number of Latino children involved with the child welfare system has more than doubled in the past 15 years, currently representing 21 percent of known cases of child maltreatment. Culturally appropriate services are in dire need, and kinship care placements appeal to the family system fundamental to Latino culture. Evidence suggests kinship placements result in fewer moves and instances of reentering care, better opportunities for maintaining contact with birth family, and faster sibling placements. Unfortunately, most child welfare policies ineffectively deal with issues unique to Latinos, such as cultural norms, mixed documentation status within households, and high rates of poverty. This commentary explores the multifaceted barriers Latino kinship care providers are likely to encounter as their lived experiences intersect with child welfare, welfare reform, and immigration policies. We posited that culturally sensitive practice and policy can reduce some strains experienced by Latino families involved with child welfare and supports kinship care as a viable placement option. (Author abstract)

Informal Kinship Care Most Common Out-of-Home Placement After an Investigation of Child Maltreatment.
Fact Sheet No. 24.
Walsh, Wendy.
Carsey Institute.
2013
This fact sheet examines differences between urban and rural areas in foster care placement with informal kin caregivers. The data for this analysis come from a national sample of children who had a maltreatment report that resulted in an investigation: the second National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being. Author Wendy Walsh reports that informal kinship placement settings, where a parent voluntarily places a child with a family member, were the most common out-of-home placement in both rural and urban areas. Informal placements involve children who are in physical custody of a relative but may remain in legal custody of a parent. Children aged 3 to 5 with a child maltreatment report in rural areas and those in very poor rural households (incomes less than 50 percent of federal poverty level) were more likely to be in informal kinship settings than similar children in urban areas. (Author abstract)

http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/FS-Walsh-Kin%20Care-Maltreatment-web_0.pdf

Paths to Permanence: Kin Guardianship and Adoption.
Rowe, Jamel.
National Council for Adoption.
2013
Adoption Advocate
(59) This article examines the multiple benefits of kin guardianship and adoption for children, addresses some of the expressed concerns surrounding these formalized care arrangements, and details the common issues relative caregivers face, so that readers will gain a greater understanding of these ever-growing options for permanency. Additionally, the article provides recommendations for both practice and policy that, when implemented, can decrease a child's time in temporary care and improve the overall wellbeing of kinship care families. (Author abstract)

The Kinship Diversion Debate: Policy and Practice Implications for Children, Families and Child Welfare Agencies.
Annie E. Casey Foundation.
2013
This report explores different perspectives on the practice of diverting children from child welfare to live with kin when they cannot remain with their families, and identifies critical components of an effective kinship care system. This analysis is based on the insights of more than 50 child welfare and judicial personnel, advocates and researchers. (Author abstract)
http://www.aecf.org/~/media/Pubs/Topics/Child%20Welfare%20Permanence/Kinship/KinshipDiversionDebate/KinshipDiversionDebate.pdf

Caseworker Attitudes on Kinship Care in Ontario.
Brisebois, Kimberly.
Wayne State University.
2013
Qualitative Social Work
12 (3) p. 289-306
This exploratory study aims to develop an understanding of caseworker views on the challenges and opportunities of kinship care. This sample includes protection and kinship service caseworkers who service families in Ontario. Focus groups with a self-selected sample of 27 caseworkers explored the current attitudes of ongoing caseworkers toward kinship caregivers and the policies that mandate their exploration. Results indicated that workers are embracing the idea of kinship care; however they note several limitations and frustrations with the practice. Lack of resources and services for kinship caregivers, issues of conflict and difficulty in monitoring kinship homes hinder positive attitudes about this practice. Further, workers felt that the current legislation encourages the approval of kinship homes that are viewed as substandard and unsafe for children. (Author abstract)

Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center [Website].
Casey Family Programs. ABA Center on Children and the Law. Generations United.
2012
The Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center serves as a national legal resource created to educate individuals about state laws and legislation in support of grandfamilies and to assist interested state legislators, advocates, caregivers, attorneys, and other policymakers in exploring policy options to support relatives and the children in their care both within and outside the child welfare system. This resource center consists of a searchable database of current laws and pending legislation; topical analyses, which include summaries and comparisons of state laws, legislative trends, and practical advocacy and implementation information; powerful personal stories from grandfamilies; and other relevant internet resources. Additionally, the ABA and Generations United staff are available to provide technical assistance and training to state policymakers and advocates or other interested parties. (Author abstract)
http://grandfamilies.org/

A Research Brief on Child Well-being: Kinship Children in New York State.
Council on Children and Families (New York)
2012
This brief on kinship care in New York State begins by discussing the benefits of kinship care for children not able to stay in their homes with their parents. The financial, legal, and emotional challenges for kinship caregivers are then explained and different options of kinship caregivers are described. A chart highlights six different types of kinship care including: relative agrees to an information arrangement with a parent, relative agrees to an informal arrangement with child protective services, relative gains temporary custody, relative gains legal custody or guardianship, relative becomes an approved foster care parent, or relative who has been approved as a foster care parent assumes legal guardianship. The

benefits associated with each type of arrangement are listed. Finally, the availability of support through Kinship Caregiver Programs located across New York State is noted. 1 table, 1 figure, and 6 references.
http://www.ccf.ny.gov/KidsCount/kcResources/KinshipChildrenNYS.pdf

Children Discharged From Kin and Non-Kin Foster Homes: Do the Risks of Foster Care Re-Entry Differ?
Research Watch.
Beatty, Sarah L.
2012
This research brief shares findings from a study that compared the re-entry rate of children discharged from kin and non-kin foster homes. Data was used from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System from Illnois and included analyses of 12,088 children who resided in out-of-home care for at least one week between October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2004. The 12,088 children exited out-of-home care (either kinship or non-kinship foster homes) and entered into one of the following arrangements: reunification (n=6,110); adoption (n=4,752); or guardianship (n=1,226). Findings indicate kin and non-kin groups had an equal likelihood of re-entry into out-of-home care.
http://cwrp.ca/researchwatch/2531

Judges' Roles in Implementing Fostering Connections: Relative Caregiver Provisions.
Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center.
2012
ABA Child Law Practice
31 (6) p. 88-93
This article describes provisions in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act that address connecting and supporting relative caregivers, including the establishment of kinship guardianship assistance programs and Family Connection Grants, and waivers for non-safety licensing standards for relatives. Judicial considerations in implementing these provisions are discussed. 2 references.

Ohio's Fostering Connection Grant: Enhanced Kinship Navigator Project. Implementation Report.
Public Children's Services Association of Ohio. Human Services Research Institute.
2012
In September 2009, seven Ohio counties and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) began a collaborative effort to enhance supports for kinship caregivers in their local communities. Referred to as Ohio's Enhanced Kinship Navigator project, this effort is supported by funding from the federal Fostering Connection to Success Act of 2008. This report examines implementation activity in the seven counties from September 2009 to July 2011, the first half of the grant period. It provides an overview of the background of kinship supports in Ohio and then describes the activities that were involved in developing and enhancing the Navigator programs. The report then describes how Navigator programs provide services to individual caregivers and promote the development and awareness of kinship supports in broader communities. The primary sources of information for this report are implementation reports, site visits, Kinship Informational Data System (KIDS) data, and Ohio State-sponsored websites. Findings from a survey of 174 kinship caregivers are also shared and indicate Kinship Navigators have enabled kinship caregivers to continue to care for their children by listening to them and addressing their current needs. Overall, caregivers are satisfied with the help they received from the Kinship Navigator and a large proportion believe their family has been generally healthier and happier as a result of the program. Appendices include the Ohio Kinship Navigator logic model and a chart illustrating characteristics of the different counties. 2 charts, 13 tables and 10 references. (Author abstract modified)
http://www.kinshipohio.org/Resources/2012/KinshipNavImplmntReportJan2012.pdf

Foster Children in Licensed and Unlicensed Kinship Care [Table 4 from Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should do to Support Kinship Families].
Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT.
2012

This table provides a state-by-state breakdown of the number and percentage of children in state custody who are placed with relatives in both licensed and unlicensed care.
http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/~/media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/S/SteppingUpforKids2012PolicyReport/SteppingUpforKidsReportTable04.pdf

Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should do to Support Kinship Families. Policy Report.
Bissell, Mary. Miller, Jennifer.
Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT.
ChildFocus.
2012
This policy report summarizes what is known about kinship care, identifies the problems and issues these families face, and recommends how caregivers can best be supported as they step up to take responsibility for children in their extended families and communities. The benefits of kinship care in increasing child safety, stability, permanence, and well-being are discussed, as well as the number of children in kinship care in each State, the characteristics of kinship families, and common challenges for kinship families. The difficulties kin caregivers face in accessing benefits and services they need to take care of the children they are taking care of are explained, and the lack of financial help for the majority of kinship caregivers is highlighted. The brief also describes barriers to the effective use of kinship families in the child welfare system, including uneven State progress in placing children with kin, barriers to licensing kin as foster parents, and inconsistent kinship diversion policies. Recommendations are made for increasing the financial stability of kinship families; strengthening kinship families involved in the child welfare system; and enhancing other community-based and government responses for kinship families. 40 references.
http://www.aecf.org/~/media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/S/SteppingUpforKids2012PolicyReport/SteppingUpForKidsPolicyReport2012.pdf

Parental Incarceration and Kinship Care: Caregiver Experiences, Child Well-Being, and Permanency Intentions.
Special Issue: The Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children and Families.
Denby, Ramona W.
University of Nevada Las Vegas. School of Social Work.
2012
Social Work in Public Health
27 (1-2) p. 104-128
The number of children who reside with a relative because of parental incarceration has increased over the past two decades. Although these children are at risk for negative outcomes, some protective factors, such as a strong and nurturing caregiver experience, buffer the effect of parental incarceration. This study examined the experiences of 72 caregivers and 127 children to learn whether caregivers' stress and strain, readiness and capacity, perceptions of child well-being, and unmet service needs are associated with permanency intentions. The study found strong inclinations against adoption, high intentions toward guardianship, and strong associations between these permanency choices and caregivers' experiences and their reports of unmet service needs and makes recommendations for policy, practice, and research advocacy. (Author abstract)

Kinship Care: A Guide for Judges, Attorneys and Court Participants.
Wirth, Barbara. Lowenbach, J. Robert.
Colorado Department of Human Services. University of Southern Maine. Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service.
2012
This Guide gives practical information and helps define (1) Who are the kinship caregivers and the children in their care? (2) What are the current state and federal laws and regulations impacting kinship care? (3) How do kinship placements differ from non-relative placements and why is understanding and addressing the particular needs of a kinship placement so important? and (4) How can different members of the judicial sector effectively engage and assess a potential kinship caregiver and extended family,

assess the best options within kinship care for a child, help families find the supports and services needed as kin caregivers, and work together to ensure a timely, safe and long-term placement? Sections 2 through 5 provide the background on kinship, the legal framework, and the different roles within the judicial sector. Sections 6 through 9 focus on specific interactions in which members of the judicial sector may impact a child's placement decision, including how to engage the family in the process, how to ensure a thorough assessment of a potential placement, and ultimately, how to help a family access needed resources to support the placement. The final section provides information on long-term permanency planning for kinship placements. (Author abstract)
http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/rcpdfs/kinshipguide.pdf

The Effectiveness of Support Groups in Increasing Social Support for Kinship Caregivers.
Strozier, Anne L.
School of Social Work, University of South Florida
2012
Children and Youth Services Review
34 (5) p. 876-881
Kinship caregivers face a variety of stressors including strains on family resources, legal challenges, conflicts with their own child, and loss of personal time. This paper focuses on the particular stress of reduced social support that grandparents and other relatives often experience. Frequently, kinship caregivers report feeling isolated from friends and family, and feeling unsupported at a time when they are likely to need greater social support. An intervention purported to increase the feeling of social support is the kinship support group. Though widely acclaimed as a valuable intervention, there has been limited research on the support group's actual effectiveness in increasing social support. The current study used the Dunst Family Support Scale (Dunst, Trivette, & Hamby, 1994) to measure how social support changed for kinship caregivers who participated in support groups versus kinship caregivers who did not attend the support groups. Findings indicated that caregivers who attended support groups experienced a significantly greater increase in social support than those caregivers who did not attend the support groups. An additional finding was that kinship caregivers attending the support groups were more likely to increase formal social supports from sources such as parent groups, social groups/clubs, church members, family physician, early childhood programs, school or day care, professional helpers and agencies compared to an increase in informal support such as spouse's parents, relatives, spouse's relatives, spouse, friends, spouse? friends, and children. Conclusions include the recommendation for continued efforts to find or create the best measure of kinship support group effectiveness as well as continuing efforts to understand informal kinship caregivers about whom much less is known than formal caregivers. A practice recommendation is to continue and even increase the use of kinship support groups because of this beginning evidence of their effectiveness as well as the economy and relative ease in conducting them. (Author abstract)

Guidelines for Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers for Health Care and Behavioral/Mental Health Services.
Michigan Department of Human Services.
2012
In a continuing effort meet the health needs of children in care, DHS has partnered with Michigan Department of Community Health to ensure that department policies are aligned related to the requirements for timely completion of comprehensive and ongoing medical and dental examinations. Foster parents and relative caregivers play a crucial role in ensuring that foster children and youth access medical and dental care timely. This publication was created to provide caregivers with an easily accessible reminder of the foster care health requirements and guidance in accessing medical and mental health care. The publication contains information for caregivers regarding: Health requirements for foster children; Behavioral/mental health services; and Tips for scheduling and accessing appointments. (Author abstract)
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/12-
159_Guidelines_for_Foster_Parents__Relative_Caregivers_DHS_PUB_268_401076_7.pdf

The Best of Both Worlds: How Kinship Care Impacts Reunification.
Blakey, Joan Marie.
University of Texas (Arlington), School of Social Work.
2012
Families in Society
93 (2) p. 93-110.
Children entering out-of-home placement because of parental substance abuse often are placed with relatives. Placements with relatives reduce the likelihood of reunification, but little information is available about why this is the case. Using a multiple embedded case study design, interviews with 26 women and 20 professionals explored the ways kinship care influences reunification among African American women with histories of addiction. The results revealed three kinds of kinship arrangements that influenced whether women regained or permanently lost custody of their children: (a) family support with parameters, (b) limited family support, and (c) enabling family support. These findings suggest a need for child welfare agencies to help relative caregivers establish boundaries and limits particularly when substance abuse is an issue.

Family Processes in Kinship Care (In: Normal Family Processes: Growing in Diversity and Complexity. 4th ed.)
Engstrom, Malitta.
2012
This chapter presents an integrative, multisystemic framework for understanding the complex relational processes in kinship care and contextual factors that interact with families' kinship care experiences, including financial strains, physical and mental health problems, and obstacles to service engagement. Multi-systemic practice principles to support thriving kinship families are then discussed. Numerous references.

Definition of Kinship Caregivers: Findings and Recommendations. Draft.
Virginia Commission on Youth.
2012
This brief discusses confusion over the use of the term "kinship caregiver" in Virginia and offers recommendations for modifying the Code of Virginia to ensure clarity. Key findings are addressed and include: there is confusion regarding kinship care and the definition of relatives or kin; there is confusion over the categories of kinship care; Virginia has no standardized policy or guidance on kinship diversion; Virginia?s relative notification provisions are critical in promoting kinship care; and informal kinship caregivers may find it difficult to obtain services for the children placed in their care. Explanations for the findings are included, and recommendations made.
http://services.dlas.virginia.gov/User_db/frmView.aspx?ViewId=3187

NRCPFC Teleconference/Webinar: Collaborating with Kinship Caregivers Curriculum and TA.
Pasztor, Eileen Mayers. Petras, Donna D.
National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections.
2012
In recent months, the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCPFC) has received many inquiries and requests for Technical Assistance (TA) from States working on kinship care issues. In response, NRCPFC hosted this webinar for Adoption and Foster Care Managers and their invited guests. The presenters, Eileen Mayers Pasztor, DSW and Donna D. Petras, PhD, MSW shared information about a new CWLA research to practice competency-based training "Model of Practice" for child welfare workers and their supervisors that can be used to support successful collaboration with kinship caregivers to achieve safety, well-being, and permanency for the children in their care. Stephanie Boyd Serafin, ACSW, NRCPFC Associate Director, offered information about TA available through NRCPFC to assist with the use and implementation of the curriculum (as well as other areas of kinship policy and practice), and discussed how States and Tribes can request TA. (Author abstract)
http://nrcpfc.org/teleconferences/2012-09-19.html

Parientes Como Proveedores de Cuidado y el Sistema de Bienestar de Menores (Kinship Caregivers and the Child Welfare System)
Hoja informativa para las familias
Child Welfare Information Gateway
2012
Ayuda a los parientes como proveedores de cuidado—incluyendo abuelos, tíos y otros parientes que cuidan niños—a trabajar de manera efectiva con el sistema de bienestar de menores. Abarca temas tales como los distintos tipos de cuidado por parientes, cómo se involucra el sistema de bienestar de menores en el cuidado por parientes y qué se puede esperar del sistema, servicios disponibles, la participación de los tribunales, y arreglos permanentes para los niños.
Helps kinship caregivers—including grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other relatives caring for children—work effectively with the child welfare system. This factsheet addresses topics such as the different types of kinship care, how the child welfare system becomes involved in kinship care, what to expect from the child welfare system, available services, the involvement of the courts, and finding permanent families for children.
http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/cuidadoresfam/index.cfm
http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/cuidadoresfam/cuidadoresfam.pdf

Biological Parents and Kinship Care: It's Complicated!!: Research and Recommendations for Grandparents.
DiSciullo, Emi. Dunifon, Rachel.
Cornell Cooperative Extension.
2012
Intended for caregiving grandparents, this brief acknowledges the challenges grandparents face in maintaining a relationship with the biological parent of the children in their care and offers research-based recommendations. Grandparents are urged to: think carefully before inviting parents to special events or including them in their daily lives and only invite parents if they can be counted on to be reliable and not hurtful in their behavior; provide children in kincare with mentoring relationships, support groups, and counseling to allow children to share their feelings about their parents; talk to other kinship caregivers, professional counselors, or friends to prepare for conversations about the necessity for kinship care; separate their own emotions toward their child's parents and allow children to form their own thoughts about them; make sure children know that it is not their fault they are not living with their families; acknowledge children's wishes to live with their biological parents; encourage letter writing to allow children to express their feelings; and avoid talking to children about the legal and logistical details of their custody arraignment.
http://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/outreach/parenting/research/upload/Kinship-Care-Recommendations-for-grandparents.pdf

Kinship Care in the United States: What the Research Tells Us [Presentation Slides].
Gleeson, James P.
Women?s Policy Inc. Congressional Caucus for Women?s Issues. Annie E. Casey Foundation. University of Illinois at Chicago. Jane Addams College of Social Work.
2012
This slide presentation begins by citing statistics on the 5.8 million children living in households headed by their grandparents, the 2.7 million children whose relatives function as their primary caregiver, and the increase in the number of children in kinship care over the past decade. Differences between ethnic groups are noted, as well as types of public support for children in households with no parent present, the degree of formal State involvement, and the differences between public and private kinship care. Data on the relationship between kinship care and socioeconomic challenges are also shared, and the greater placement stability of children placed with relatives is noted. Findings are also cited that indicate children are generally reunified with biological parents at slower rates form kinship care than non-relative foster care, but are less likely to reenter the custody of the child welfare system. The importance of financial support in ensuring placement stability is also addressed, as well as data on kinship adoption, guardianship, and the safety of children in kinship care. Findings show children in families given the option of subsidized guardianship were more likely to achieve legal permanence, that children in public

kinship care are at least as safe as children in foster care with non-relatives, and that children in formal kinship care have lower rates of mental health and behavioral problems than their peers in foster care and functioning improves over time. The need to support kinship caregivers raising children through adolescence is emphasized and emerging and promising practices for supporting kinship caregivers are identified.

http://www.womenspolicy.org/site/DocServer/Dr._Gleeson_presentation.pdf?docID=4642

Federal Tax Benefits: Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Caregivers, 2011 Tax Year.
National Foster Parent Association.
2012
guide explains basic rules and offers tips on ways that foster and adoptive parents and kinship caregivers can claim deductions and credit available to them. The guide focuses primarily on low-to-moderate income families.

http://www.nfpaonline.org/Resources/Documents/Tax/NFPA_2011_Federal_Tax_Benefits.pdf

The Pediatric Role in the Care of Children in Foster and Kinship Care.
Szilagyi, Moira.
Starlight Pediatrics, Rochester, NY.
2012
Pediatrics in Review
33 (11) p. 496-508
In September 2010, 408,425 children and adolescents resided in foster care. Recent legislation highlights an increasing focus on involving pediatricians in supporting children in foster care and defines specific requirements relevant to the role of pediatricians. After completing this article, readers should be able to: (1) Understand the purposes of foster care and the problems associated with pre-placement childhood trauma and foster care placement; (2) Know the basics of how foster care systems work; (3) Recognize that children in foster care are by definition children with special health-care needs; (4) Understand that many children in foster care have behavioral problems that can lead to placement instability that, in turn, can exacerbate those problems; and (5) Understand the physician's role in foster care. (Author abstract)

Maltreatment and Families' Receipt of Services: Associations With Reunification, Kinship Care, and Adoption.
Cheng, Tyrone C. Li, Allison X.
2012
Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services
93 (3) p. 189-195
We examined matched services' impact on reunification, kinship care, and adoption through secondary data analysis with a sample (extracted from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being) of 1,760 children who experienced foster care and their permanent caregivers. Permanent caregivers included biological parents, step parents, relatives, and adoptive parents. Event history analysis showed (a) reunification was likelier when permanent caregivers received housing and cash assistance, and less likely when they received other services (e.g., employment services, health care services); (b) kinship care was less likely when employment, mental health, or substance abuse services were received; and (c) adoption was less likely when employment, domestic violence, legal, or health care services were received. Maltreatment did not impact permanency significantly. Implications for social work are discussed. (Author abstract)

Final Report of the Virginia Commission on Youth: School Enrollment Practices for Virginia's Kinship Caregivers.
Virginia Commission on Youth.
2012
During the 2010 study year, the Commission on Youth conducted a study assessing the barriers to foster and kinship care placements in Virginia. A finding from this study acknowledged the challenges that informal kinship caregivers face when enrolling the child in their care in school if the child's parents do not reside in the same school division. At the Commission's meeting on April 5, 2011, the Commission

adopted a study plan to convene an advisory group of representatives from impacted agencies and stakeholder organizations to study ways to clarify the school enrollment process for informal kinship caregivers. The Advisory Group reviewed current law, local practices, and two Attorney General Opinions addressing school enrollment. The Advisory Group found that school enrollment practices vary among school divisions. Some public school divisions require a court order giving custody to the kinship caregiver in order for the child to be enrolled in school. Other school divisions require a signed affidavit or Power of Attorney. Others require only that the kinship caregiver provide proof of residency. In addition to evaluating school enrollment practices, the Commission also reviewed policies and practices of the Department of Social Services related to kinship care. (Author abstract)
http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD1352012/$file/RD135.pdf

Information Packet: Kinship Care and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.
Hertz, Kim. Ariyakulkan, Lyn.
National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections.
2012
This information packet focuses on kinship care as it relates to the Fostering Connections Act. It provides a summary; facts and statistics on factors that account for the increase in kinship placements, as well as the benefits of kinship placements; an overview of policy and legislation and links to related resources and examples; select best practices and model programs; and, descriptions and links to online resources.
http://www.nrcpfc.org/fostering_connections/download/Kinship_Care_&_Fostering_Connections_Act_Kim Hertz.pdf

Working With Kinship Caregivers
Bulletin for Professionals
Child Welfare Information Gateway
2012
Helps child welfare professionals promote kinship care by providing information, referral, and support services to kinship caregivers to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in their care. Topics covered include the types and benefits of kinship care, training for caseworkers, specific strategies for supporting kinship caregivers, and examples of successful child welfare programs around the country that provide services to kinship caregivers.
http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/kinship.cfm
http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/kinship.pdf

Kinship Foster Family Type and Placement Discharge Outcomes.
Zinn, Andrew.
University of Chicago, Chapin Hall.
2012
Children and Youth Sevices Review
34 (4) p. 602-614
Using a combination of survey and administrative data describing 453 public kinship foster family placements in Illinois, this study examines the relationship between kinship family type and the timing and disposition of children's placement discharge outcomes. Family types are identified using an empirically-grounded typology of kinship families based on family structure and household composition (Zinn, 2010). In order to explore the mechanisms governing the relationships between family type and children's discharge outcomes, the moderating effects of several other kinship family characteristics are also examined. Results suggest significant differences in the type and timing of children's discharge outcomes across kinship family type as well as two other kinship family characteristics: caregiver age and fostering competency. Implications for kinship family scholarship, policy, and practice are discussed

Kinship and non-kinship foster care: Differences in contact with parents and foster child's mental health problems.
Vanschoonlandt, Femke. Vanderfaeillie, Johan. Van Holen, Frank. De Maeyer, Skrällan. Andries, Caroline.

Foster care placements, especially placements with kin, are the first option of choice when parents cannot maintain the care for their children. Therefore, an evaluation of this type of out-of-home-placement, with special attention for the differences between kinship and non-kinship placements, is necessary. In this study both types of foster placements (n = 186) are compared for two important aspects: contact with/attitude of parents and mental health of foster children. Non-kinship foster placements fare better on different aspects of contact with/attitude of parents than kinship foster placements. Foster children in kinship foster placements have less behavioral problems than non-kinship foster children. However, not the type of foster placement but the number of previous out-of-home placements is the most important predictive factor for behavioral problems. Implications for practice and policy are discussed. (Author abstract)

Home Based Care Navigation Services for Kinship Foster Families Referred by Oklahoma, Grant Program: Grantee Abstracts
North Oklahoma County Mental Health Center (NorthCare)
2012
Organization Description: NorthCare Community Mental Health Center will serve as the project lead in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Health and Human services contributing match funds and coordination with the OKDHS division of Child Welfare and TANF. This project will also have an evaluation component through an external evaluator. This evaluation will be conducted by research faculty from the Center on Child Abuse ancl Neglect (CCAN) at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.Use(s) of ACF Program Grant Funds: Family KINnections will provide comprehensive care coordination to kinship foster families. The proposed project will expand NorthCare?s Systems of Care approach to providing wraparound care to a vulnerable population - kinship foster families in Oklahoma County. NorthCare will receive referrals for this project from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. NorthCare's Kinship Navigators will offer support to these farnilies by utilizing a family needs assessment tool to help kinship families identify their needs and determine what services they need to maintain a stable placement for the children in their care. The kinship Navigator will provide education to the families on community resources and connect the kinship foster family with these resources. The kinship navigator will also help facilitate the obtaining of these services and follow-up with the family to ensure the kinship families have the ability maintain placements for their chiclren in their home.

Connective Complexity: African American Adolescents and the Relational Context of Kinship Foster Care (chapter in Challenging Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare: Research, Policy and Practice).
Schwartz, Ann.
2011
A study of 18 African American adolescents explored how the relational context of care experienced by adolescents in kinship foster care differs from that of adolescents in nonkinship foster family placements. Those in kinship care displayed greater continuity of connections as well as more complexity in their relationships with birth parents and caregivers. 1 table and 51 references.

Practice Principles for the Recruitment and Retention of Kinship, Foster, and Adoptive Families for Siblings.
AdoptUSKids. National Resource Center for Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Parents.
2011
This brief explains the importance of keeping siblings together in out-of-home care and strategies child welfare agencies can use to keep siblings together. Principles that should frame an agency's recruitment and retention practices related to siblings are listed and include: the agency will train all staff in the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to be effective in finding and supporting kinship, foster, and adoptive families to parent siblings; the agency will proactively pursue placing siblings together with kinship and/or fictive kin whenever possible; the agency will diligently recruit and prepare homes for

siblings who reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of children; the agency will use best practices and consider non-traditional families and innovative ways to recruit and retain families to keep siblings together; licensing and/or approval standards will encourage placement of siblings together; special funding and resources will be available to help families qualify to care for sibling groups; all foster and adoptive families will be offered training to help them provide care for sibling groups; support services will be provided to help resource families keep siblings together; families who are parenting different members of a sibling group will be supported and encouraged to bring siblings together; and if siblings are not placed together, the agency will make all reasonable efforts to provide for frequent visitation and ongoing contact among the siblings. Federal regulations regarding sibling placement are reviewed. http://www.adoptuskids.org/_assets/files/NRCRRFAP/resources/practice-principles-and-seven-step-process-for-sibling-recruitment.pdf

How a Child Enters the Juvenile Court System: A Handbook for Foster and Relative Caregivers.
Obrecht, Stacey L.
Wyoming Supreme Court. Wyoming Children's Justice Project.
2011
A complete reference guide for Wyoming Foster and Relative Caregivers in understanding the legal process in Wyoming Juvenile Courts.
http://www.courts.state.wy.us/CJP/HowaChildEnterstheJuvenileCourtSystem-ForFRCsFINAL.pdf

Coparenting in Kinship Families With Incarcerated Mothers: A Qualitative Study.
Strozier, Anne L. Armstrong, Mary. Skuza, Stella. Cecil, Dawn. McHale, James.
2011
Families in Society : The Journal of Contemporary Social Services
92 (1) p. 55-61
The number of incarcerated mothers has risen steadily in the past 20 years, with a majority of the mothers' children being cared for by relatives, usually the maternal grandmother (Smith, Krisman, Strozier, & Marley, 2004). This article examines the unique coparenting relationship of grandmothers and mothers through qualitative individual interviews with a sample of 24 incarcerated mothers with children between the ages of 2 and 6, and 24 grandmothers raising their children. The study revealed many different variants of healthy coparenting alliances, achieved against often huge odds. Much variation was also discovered in dyads where coparenting alliances were not as successful. Implications for practice include performing structural family assessments, enhancing jail education programs, and offering extended coparenting treatment after discharge. (Author abstract)

Grandparenting: Roles and Responsibilities and its Implications for Kinship Care Policies.
Devine, Mike. Earle, Tara.
Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, NL, Canada.
2011
Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies
6 (2) p. 124-133
The current literature with regard to grandparents providing care to their grandchildren, whether on an informal basis or when the children are under the auspices of children's protection services (state-mandated intervention), highlights a number of issues or concerns for the caregivers. In the province of Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada), there is a focus on giving priority to grandparents (and significant others) as caregivers, which is embedded in the current child welfare legislation. There appears to be an underlying assumption that grandparents are willing and able to provide such care. However, no research has been completed in order to gain an understanding of some of the dynamics of caregiving by grandparents in this province. The authors are interested in grandparents as potential caregivers, particularly with regard to children who may come under the auspices of children's protection services. In addition, the policies and practices appear to be incongruent with current research, concerns and issues. This province is unique in that it has the fastest-growing senior population, the highest median age for seniors in Canada and has a high number of young families that have moved to other provinces to work. This research will provide insight into the willingness and ability of grandparents to provide care to their

grandchildren, whether through informal or formal care (state intervention), as well as implications for current policies and practices. (Author abstract)

A Guide for Grandparent/Relative Care Providers.
Family Services Programs (West Virginia. Dept. of Health and Human Resources)
West Virginia. Department of Health and Human Resources
2011
Intended for grandparents or relative caregivers in West Virginia, this guide provides information on kinship care. It discusses the benefits of kinship care to children and caregivers, different legal options for care giving, and differences in current child rearing practices from past practices. Information is provided on steps that should be taken before a child comes to live in the home, the development of a written agreement, feelings that may be experienced by the children and grandparents, and tips for explaining the situation to the child. Grandparents are urged to encourage open communication, take key safety steps, and support the educational needs of the child. In addition, strategies for keeping children healthy and safe around strangers are reviewed. Final sections provide recommendations for dealing with child discipline, explain available financial assistance, and provide a list of resource organizations.

Kinship Liaisons: A Peer-to-Peer Approach to Supporting Kinship Caregivers.
Denby, Ramona W.
2011
Children and Youth Services Review
33 (2) p. 217-225
Relative caregivers are invaluable to the child welfare system. Although most states have a preference for relative placement, the support and assistance provided to relatives during and beyond the initial child placement period are inadequate. Through a U.S. Children's Bureau System of Care Demonstration project, a peer-to-peer approach (based in social cognitive theory) which paired a new relative caregiver (n = 74) with a full-time, paid kinship liaison (a current or former relative caregiver) was studied. Findings show that kinship liaisons are extremely helpful to caregivers and reveal 27 support categories that caregivers find most useful. One of the most significant services (i.e., information and referral) provided by the liaisons increased caregivers' knowledge of accessing available services and the permanency process. Data results show significant increases in caregivers' coping abilities and willingness to become a permanent resource for the children in their care. Policy and practice insights are provided. (Author abstract)

Grandparents in Kinship Care: Help or Hindrance to Family Preservation.
Article 9.
Wilkerson, Patricia A. Davis, Gloria J.
Jackson State University.
2011
Journal of Family Strengths
11 (1) p. 1-18
This article explores the rise of kinship care, the ongoing debate about how child welfare agencies should financially assist and assess kin, and social issues that perpetuated the need for kinship care policy. The lack of mechanisms to adequately support kinship caregivers is noted and recommendations are made for considering greater compensation for kin caregivers and the adoption of new approaches to care that strengthen a child's kinship network. 56 references.
http://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1016&context=jfs

Breaking the Rules: Children and Young People in Kinship Care Speak About Contact With Their Families.
*Family Links: **Kinship Care** and Family Contact Research Series ; Report #1.*
Child Safety Commissioner (Australia)
2011
This report presents the views of children and young people in kinship care arrangements in Victoria. It is the first report from the research project, 'Family Links: Kinship Care and Family Contact', and aims to

investigate the effectiveness of current family contact policies and how services can respond better to young people's needs. This report presents the views of children, adolescents, and young adults on views on normal family life, the importance of family, conflicted views on family contact, forced contact, prevention of desired contact, parents, siblings, extended family, and safety. (Author abstract)
http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/childsafetycommissioner/downloads/kinship-care/973-kinship-care-report-breaking-the-rules.pdf

Does Kinship Care Work Well for Children?: A Summary of the Research.
Myslewicz, Mary.
Casey Family Programs.
2011
This report was prepared at the request of Mike Scholl, Senior Director of Strategic Consulting at Casey Family Programs, as an informative resource for the Utah Division for Child and Family Services. The request is for a summary of the current research looking at the impact of kinship care on child welfare outcomes, including specific information about placement and educational stability, well-being outcomes, and the maintenance of family and cultural identity for children placed in kinship care. In addition, there was a request for research findings on the general quality of care provided to children by relative caregivers. An internet and literature review was conducted to gather the most current research findings around the impact of kinship care. This report represents a synthesis of a portion of the research. (Author abstract)
http://file.lacounty.gov/bos/supdocs/69009.pdf

Collaborating with Kinship Caregivers: The Practice Choice and Challenge of Kinship Care.
Pasztor, Eileen Mayers. Petras, Donna D. Rainey, Cassaundra.
Partners for Our Children.
2011
In the early 1990's kinship care emerged as a child welfare model. This brief presents a '"collaborative mode of practice" designed to work for the maximum benefit of children in kinship care. The elements of the model include: nine major issues that require collaboration (e.g., legal status, health care, school); five caseworker competencies (e.g., respect for knowledge, skills, and experiences of others); four phases of kinship care service (ranging from assessing the kinship family for willingness to be a kin caregiver to transitioning the family to community-based supports); and three federally mandated outcomes for children (i.e., child safety, well-being, and permanency). (Author abstract)
http://partnersforourchildren.org/sites/default/files/publications/2011._collaborating_with_kinship_caregivers.pdf

Barriers to Kinship Care in Virginia: Final Report of the Virginia Commission on Youth to the Governor and the Virginia General Assembly.
Virginia Commission on Youth.
2011
This report discusses findings from a study that assessed barriers to kinship care placement in Virginia, as well as challenges which impact kinship care, including policies, training, and funding. Virginia's barrier crime laws were also reviewed and compared to federal requirements to determine how they impact kinship care placements. The study included a literature review on the role and benefits of kinship care and best practices, a review of federal legislation and statutes, a work group of representatives from the impacted groups, a review of Virginia laws and regulations, an analysis of Virginia practices and data, an investigation of other States' barrier crime statutes, and an assessment of the perceptions of the constituents. Findings indicate children in kinship care achieve permanency at higher rates, experience better placement stability, and have shorter lengths of stay. Visitation with birth parents and siblings is more frequent and placement with siblings is more likely. Despite its successes, however, attitudes about kinship care are not always positive. Recommendations for improving access to kinship care are offered and include the creation of a Kinship Care Navigator to disseminate information to relative caregivers regarding available social service programs and benefits, the implementation of the Custody Assistance Program, and an annual review of barrier crimes impacting the licensure of foster or adoptive parents. A

slide presentation on kinship care is attached.
http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD172012/$file/RD17.pdf

Relative Caregiving: What You Need to Know.
DHS-Pub-114.
Michigan. Dept. of Human Services. Michigan State University. Kinship Care Resource Center.
2011
Intended for kinship caregivers in Michigan, this guide provides basic information about the Michigan child welfare system and resources that are available to help relative caregivers. The guide addresses: reasons for the involvement of Children's Protective Services, the foster care system, the benefits of relative care, assistance and financial resources that available to help relative caregivers, requirements for becoming a licensed relative foster parent, the licensing process, financial assistance that is available during the licensing process, Family Independence Program payments, applying for food assistance, medical care for the child, expectations of kinship caregivers, the role of foster care workers, permanent living arrangement options of a child, the difference between adoption and guardianship, financial assistance for the child if the child is adopted or the caregiver become the legal guardian, and the court process. A flow chart is included that explains a child's journey through the child welfare system. A list of support organizations is included.
http://michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-Pub-114_346655_7.pdf

Kinship/Relative Care
Related Organizations List
Child Welfare Information Gateway
2011
Organizations that provide information and resources for kinship and relative care providers.
http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/reslist/rl_dsp.cfm?subjID=238&rate_chno=W-00061
http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/reslist/printer_friendly.cfm?subjID=238&rate_chno=W-00061

Kinship Care and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008: A Web-based Toolkit.
National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections.
2011
This toolkit discusses the critical kinship care practices addressed in the Fostering Connections Act: notice to relatives, foster care licensing standards, placement with siblings, and family connections grants. It provides information and links to resources on each of these topics. The toolkit is accompanied by an organizational self study on kinship care, which can be used to review kinship care policies and practices through the lens of the Fostering Connections Act.
http://www.nrcpfc.org/toolkit/kinship/

Ensuring High Quality Kinship Care in Wisconsin.
Children's Rights.
2011
The state of Wisconsin recently launched a new effort to license and train relatives following a legislative change in 2009 requiring relatives caring for foster youth to apply for a foster home license. This report evaluates the implementation of this new policy shift in Wisconsin, and offers specific recommendations that would help ensure that foster youth living with relatives are just as safe as those living with unrelated foster parents. The report finds that while Wisconsin has taken important steps to improve the safety of foster youth living with relatives -- and to bolster support for the family members willing to step up and care for them -- the state must improve its data tracking system and other licensing policies and practices to ensure that the changes it has made are actually improving the lives of the children and families it serves. The change in policy and state law was catalyzed in part by the 2009 death of 13-month-old Christopher Thomas in the home of an unlicensed relative -- a notorious case that raised serious concerns that children placed in unlicensed foster homes with relatives were not receiving the same protections, support, and services as children in the care of licensed foster parents. According to the report, DCF has started implementing this new relative licensing requirement, and taken steps to better

safeguard children and support relatives. Thanks to these changes, foster children placed with licensed relatives in Wisconsin are more likely be protected; more likely to see their caseworkers regularly; and more likely to get the medical, mental health, and educational services they need. However, the report notes a number of areas where the new system could be improved: (1) If a relative refuses to be licensed, require a determination from the family court that the child in foster care can continue to safely live with that relative; (2) Increase all payments to foster parents and licensed relatives to align with the actual costs of raising children; (3) Require comprehensive training for all relative caregivers and develop and implement new training for caseworkers specifically focused on relatives caring for foster children; (4) Take steps to further ensure that child welfare staff is accurately entering data in a timely manner; (5) Enhance the state child welfare data system to ensure all information about relative caregivers is readily available and use that information to evaluate the implementation and performance of the new "levels of care" licensing system; and (6) Comprehensively review any and all disparities in practices between kinship and non-kinship foster care. (Author abstract)
http://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads//2011/03/2011-03-07_ensuring_high_quality_kinship_care_for_wisconsin_children_final.pdf

'It is the Story of All of Us': Learning from Aboriginal Communities About Supporting Family Connection.
*Family Links: **Kinship Care** and Family Contact Research Series ; Report #2.*
Kiraly, Meredith. Humphreys, Cathy.
Child Safety Commissioner (Australia)
University of Melbourne.
2011
This report discusses findings from a research project that explored the longer-term support of kinship care arrangements in Australia and sought to improve children's well-being by encouraging greater attention to family connections. This particular study explored the experiences of Aborginal kinship caregivers and compared their experiences with mainstream kinship caregivers. A survey of caregivers was conducted that investigated their experience of children's contact with their family members, as well as focus groups and interviews with children and young people parents, kinship carers, and kinship support workers. A total of 430 questionnaires were completed, and 16% of the 694 children for whom survey data was available were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, a total of 109 children. Thirteen people participated in the consultations: 11 were Aboriginal and other two had Aboriginal family. Findings indicate: the Aboriginal caregivers were on average older, more likely to be single, and caring for both larger numbers of children and a greater proportion of young children, many difficulties with parental contact were mentioned by respondents who were caring for indigenous children and some carers felt that there was insufficient support for contact visits, almost all indigenous caregivers felt that children in their care were growing up with an active understanding of their culture; and carers felt they lacked information about entitlements, financial assistance, counseling, and information about responding to trauma. The impact of the history of the Stolen Generations is discussed, as well as financial barriers to family contact, program standards and policy for both mainstream and Aboriginal kinship care services, and casework skills. Key pointers to good practice in Aboriginal kinship care are also provided. 32 references.
http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/childsafetycommissioner/downloads/kinship-care/973-kinship-care-report-aboriginal-kinship.pdf

Health Outcomes and Family Services in Kinship Care: Analysis of a National Sample of Children in the Child Welfare System.
Sakai, Christina. Lin, Hua. Flores, Glenn.
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.
2011
Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
165 (2) p. 159-165
Objectives To comprehensively assess family services, health, and health care outcomes for US children in kinship care vs foster care. Design: A 3-year prospective cohort study. Setting: National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being. Participants: The sample consisted of 1308 US children entering out-of-home

care following reported maltreatment. Main Exposure: Kinship care vs foster care. Main Outcome Measures: Baseline caregivers' support services and the children's behavioral, mental health, and health service use outcomes 3 years after placement. Results: Kinship caregivers were more likely than foster caregivers to have a low socioeconomic status but reported significantly fewer support services (caregiver subsidies, parent training, peer support, and respite care). Kinship care was associated with a lower risk ratio (RR) of continuing behavioral problems (RR = 0.59; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.41-0.80), low social skills (RR = 0.61; 95% CI, 0.40-0.87), mental health therapy use (RR = 0.45; 95% CI, 0.27-0.73), and psychotropic medication use (RR = 0.46; 95% CI, 0.24-0.82) but higher risk of substance use (RR = 1.88; 95% CI, 0.92-3.20) and pregnancy (RR = 4.78; 95% CI, 1.07-17.11). Conclusions: Kinship caregivers received fewer support services than foster caregivers. Children in kinship care fared better with behavioral and social skills problems, mental health therapy use, and psychotropic medication use. Adolescents in kinship care may be at higher risk for substance use and pregnancy. (Author abstract)

Kinship Care for African American Children: Disproportionate and Disadvantageous (Chapter 3 in Child Maltreatment: A Collection of Readings).
Harris, Marian S. Skyles, Ada.
2011
This article highlights the individual and systemic practices that perpetuate the overuse of and reliance on kinship care, and emphasizes family reunification as the preferred permanency plan for African American children in the child welfare system. The number and proportion of African American children entering the child welfare system and receiving kinship foster care is discussed and illustrate the overuse of kinship care. Numerous references.

'Look at it From the Parent's View as Well': Messages About Good Practice From Parents of Children in Kinship Care.
*Family Links: **Kinship Care** and Family Contact Research Series ; Report #3.*
Kiraly, Meredith. Humphreys, Cathy.
Child Safety Commissioner (Australia)
University of Melbourne.
2011
This report discusses findings from a research project that explored longer-term support of kinship care arrangements in Australia and sought to improve children's well-being by encouraging greater attention to family connections. This particular study explored how current child protection policy and practice in family contact work form the perspectives of the parent with children in kinship care, supervision of family contact that is needed, the importance of parent-child connection when children are separated in care, and how family contact can best be supported to improve family relationships. Twenty parents were interviewed that were between 25 and 40, 15 of whom had had child protection involvement in their families. Findings indicate that despite whatever family tension and conflict it may entail, parents overwhelmingly preferred their children to remain within the family rather than go into care, as they see the alternatives; many parents felt remorse for the suffering of their children and other family caused by their own difficulties; many of these parents appeared unlikely to resume full care of their children, however, all the parents interviewed expressed interest in their children and keenness to maintain contact; and contact that is supervised in Departmental buildings was strongly disliked. When asked about support, parents said they needed a good relationship with their key worker, counseling services, and specific help for their children. 50 references.
http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/childsafetycommissioner/downloads/kinship-care/973-kinship-care-report-parents-view.pdf

Child-Parent Psychotherapy with Traumatized Young Children in Kinship Care: Adaptation of an Evidence-Based Intervention (In: Clinical Work with Traumatized Young Children).
Van Horn, Patricia. Gray, Lili. Pettinelli, Beth. Estassi, Natalia.
2011
Theoretical underpinnings of child-parent psychotherapy (CPP) are explained, as well as the traumatic circumstances that result in infants and young children being placed in foster care, the strengths and vulnerabilities specific to kinship foster care, and how CPP can be adopted best to serve children in these

surrogate caregiving relationships. Case examples are provided. 34 references. (Author abstract modified)

'They Need That Connection': Kinship Carers and Support Staff Speak About Contact Between Children and Their Families.
*Family Links: **Kinship Care** and Family Contact Research Series ; Report #4.*
Kiraly, Meredith. Humphreys, Cathy. Hoadley, David.
Child Safety Commissioner (Australia)
University of Melbourne.
2011
This report discusses findings from a research project that explored longer-term support of kinship care arrangements in Australia and sought to improve children's well-being by encouraging greater attention to family connections. This particular study explored family contact for children in kinship care as seen by their caregivers and kinship care support workers. Findings are shared from a survey of 430 carers, as well as a series of focus groups and interviews that included 70 kinship carers and 30 support staff. Results indicate contact with family members in kinship care was generally frequent and diverse, and most children had contact with a range of family members on a regular or semi-regular basis. Over two-thirds had contact with their mother, and nearly half with their father. For just over half the children, contact with their mother was seen to be going well, and to be in their best interests. For the rest of the children, however, there were seen to be difficulties and many caregivers felt that contact was only sometimes in the children's best interests, or not at all. Caregivers also described a range of services that make a difference in managing parental contact. Most often they wanted good casework support that included mediation and counseling, and access to supervised contact centers. Results from the indigenous caregivers who responded to the survey found most felt that the children in their care were growing up with knowledge of their family and culture; however, two-thirds of indigenous caregivers were not aware of the children?s Cultural Support Plans. Key pointers for supporting children?s contact with their families are discussed. 28 references.
http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/childsafetycommissioner/downloads/kinship-care/kinship-care-report-04-they-need-that-connection.pdf

Kinship Care and Communication: Family Portraits Project "Helping Teens to Tell their Stories."
Dunifon, Rachel. DiSciullo, Emi.
Cornell University. Dept. of Policy Analysis and Management.
2011
The challenge of promoting open communication between grandparents and teens in kinship placements is discussed and strategies are described for implementing a successful Family Portraits Project to support the development of positive communication and strengthen family dynamics. The Family Portraits Project is a 6-10 session series using art, writing, photography, and computer technology to develop a personal family book. The project aims to provide youth in kinship care with a safe, fun, and educational way to explore their family dynamics and history while improving communication with their caregivers. It focuses on the creative process of storytelling as a vehicle for self-expression. Group discussions during each session provide opportunities for connecting with peers while take-home prompts allow for storytelling and intentional information gathering at home. Through this process, each participant creates an individual book to take home and share with their family and friends. Goals of the project are explained, as well as steps for implementing the project. 2 references.
http://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/outreach/parenting/research/upload/Kinship-care-and-communication-1.pdf

A Typology of Kinship Foster Families: Latent Class and Exploratory Analyses of Kinship Family Structure and Household Composition.
Zinn, Andrew.
2010
Children and Youth Services Review
32 (3) p. 325-337
Using a combination of survey and administrative data describing 458 public kinship foster family

placements in Illinois, this study uses latent class analysis to develop a typology of kinship foster families based on indicators of family structure and household composition. Kinship family types are then compared on other kinship family characteristics. Results of the latent class analysis suggest that the kinship family population in Illinois consists of at least 4 distinct subpopulations, whose defining attributes include the number and age of co-resident, non-foster children and the way in which kinship parents are related to the foster children in their care. Comparisons of these subpopulations suggest statistically significant differences with respect to several kinship family characteristics, including perceived fostering competence. Implications for kinship family scholarship, policy, and practice are discussed. (Author abstract)

Kinship Foster Care for Relatives Caring for Children in CPS Custody.
ACY-1081APAMPD
Arizona Department of Economic Security. Division of Children, Youth and Families.
2010
This guide is designed to assist Arizona relatives who are providing kinship care to children who have been removed from their homes. It answers questions that address: kinship foster care, the role of Child Protective Services (CPS)and the CPS Specialist, requirements of a kinship caregiver, paperwork for becoming a kinship foster caregiver, background checks, the CPS visit and home study, deciding to become a licensed kinship foster parent and the requirements, waivers for licensing standards, financial support for kinship care, medical and dental care that is available for the children, expectations of kinship caregivers, the CPS case plan, long-term kinship care, and legal guardianship and adoption.
https://www.azdes.gov/InternetFiles/Pamphlets/pdf/ACY-1081APAMPD.pdf

Permanency Outcomes of Children in Kinship and Non-Kinship Foster Care: Testing the External Validity of Kinship Effects.
Koh, Eun.
2010
Children and Youth Services Review
32 (3) p. 389-398
The study investigates the permanency outcomes of children in kinship foster homes in comparison to children in non-kinship foster homes. To examine whether the effects of kinship placements are generalizable across states, the study utilizes the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data obtained for five states that participated in the Fostering Court Improvement project: Arizona, Connecticut, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee. The study also addresses the issue of selection biases with the use of propensity score matching (PSM) methods. A partially longitudinal file was created from the states' AFCARS 6-month submissions from March 2000 to September 2005. The PSM method created the matched samples of the study, balancing the mean covariates between kin and non-kin children.
Analyses of survival times were conducted to investigate the permanency outcomes of children in kinship and non-kinship foster homes, using unmatched and matched samples. In the study, permanency outcomes include legal permanence and placement stability. The study finds that the direction and the size of kinship effects vary across the states with respect to the outcome of legal permanence, but positive advantages of kinship placements are reported for placement stability in all five states. Implications of the findings for practice and policy are discussed. (Author abstract)

"Nobody Knows Me No More": Experiences of Loss Among African American Adolescents in Kinship and Non-Kinship Foster Care Placements.
Schwartz, Ann E.
Concordia University Texas.
2010
Race and Social Problems
2 (1) 31-49
Youth in out-of-home care confront numerous disruptions in relationships and social environments, but how they experience such disruptions and their perception of these changes as losses has received little attention in the research literature. Furthermore, the increased use of kinship foster care raises questions

regarding the effect of such placements on children's experience of loss. Due to the overrepresentation of African American children in both the child welfare system and in kinship placements, race is a central variable in understanding the kinship care context and how it impacts loss. Using interview data from 18 African American adolescents in kinship and non-kinship placements, qualitative findings are presented regarding differences in relational and locational disruptions and in perceptions of those disruptions. Compared to non-kinship participants, adolescents in kinship placements experienced fewer disruptions in relationships and location and also experienced the restoration of losses as well as outright relational gains in entering their relative placements. Implications for policy, practice, and research are also discussed. (Author abstract)

Practice Principles for the Recruitment and Retention of Kinship, Foster and Adoptive Families for Siblings.
AdoptUSKids.
2010
Effective recruitment of families for siblings is driven and supported by an attitude of abundance regarding the availability of families to keep siblings together. This includes having a belief that kinship, foster and adoptive families are willing to step forward to assist the agency in keeping siblings together. The following principles -- which grow out of, and align with, these attitudes -- are offered to frame an agency's recruitment and retention practices related to siblings. (Author abstract)

Kinship Foster Care and the Risk of Juvenile Delinquency.
Ryan, Joseph P. Hong, Jun Sung. Herz, Denise. Hernandez, Pedro M.
2010
Children and Youth Services Review
32 (12) p. 1823-1830
Formal kinship care represents the placement of a maltreated or otherwise vulnerable youth in the care and protection of a known relative or adult with a recognized kin bond. The practice of identifying and utilizing kin placements in child welfare has significantly increased over the last two decades. In part, the increased use of kinship care reflects the priorities, preferences, and mechanisms specified in federal legislation. A fairly broad literature demonstrates the value of kin homes in child welfare. Yet significant gaps in the understanding of kin homes remain, especially with regard to youth outcomes across allied service systems. In the current study we use administrative records from a large urban county and propensity score matching to investigate the relationship between kinship care placements in child welfare and the risk of delinquency. The sample (n = 13,396) is diverse and our design is longitudinal in that we follow youth through child welfare and juvenile systems for several years. The results indicate that the relative risk of delinquency is significantly greater for African American and white male adolescents served in kin homes. For Hispanic males and Hispanic females, kin homes are associated with a decreased likelihood of delinquency. There is no kin placement effect associated with African American or white females. (Author abstract)

Indicators of Quality in Kinship Foster Care.
Falconnier, Lydia A. Tomasello, Nicole M. Doueck, Howard J. Wells, Susan J. Luckey, Heather. Agathen, Jean M.
2010
Families in Society : The Journal of Contemporary Social Services
91 (4) p. 415-420
Kinship care for at-risk children is an increasingly popular alternative to traditional foster care. Despite the rationale for such placements, questions remain about the quality of kinship care compared to other foster placement alternatives and about how to evaluate its quality. The purpose of this study was twofold: a review of the literature to explore the characteristics of children and caregivers in kinship homes, and an examination of existing tools for measuring kinship care quality. A total of 25 predictive, correlational, qualitative, and meta-analytic research studies were reviewed. Children in kinship care were found to experience unique circumstances that should be considered when developing a comprehensive instrument for measuring quality of kinship care. Development should include collaboration among kinship

care stakeholders in order to address the unique real-life circumstances of both caregivers and their kin. (Author abstract)

Federal Tax Benefits: Foster, Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers, 2009 Tax Year.
National Foster Parent Association.
2010
This guide explains basic rules and offers tips on ways that foster and adoptive parents and kinship caregivers can claim deductions and credit available to them.
http://www.nfpaonline.org/Resources/Documents/Tax/NFPA_2009_Federal_Tax_Benefits.pdf

Tools for Working with Kinship Caregivers.
Dougherty, Susan.
National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections.
2010
This resource lists training materials that can be used for kinship caregivers (5 resources), assessment tools (2 resources), handbooks for caregivers (4 resources), relevant websites (4 resources), and additional print materials (3 resources). Information is provided on each resource, along with websites for accessing the material.
http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/Tools%20for%20Working%20with%20Kinship%20Caregivers.pdf

Addressing Kinship Care in Virginia: Stock Presentation.
Children's Services Systems Transformation (Va.).
2010
This presentation explains the benefits of kinship care for children in Virginia and reports steps Virginia is taking to increase the placement of children with relative caregivers. Virginia is reported as last in the nation in the use of kinship care with only 4.6% of placements with kin, and information is provided on: the challenges of kinship care policy and practice; positive child welfare outcomes with kinship care; and provisions in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act to support efforts to provide kinship caregivers with monetary assistance, modify licensing requirements to increase the availability of licensed foster family homes with relatives, notify relatives, and keep siblings together. The federal Family Connection Grants Program is also described, and federal support for providing services to older adopted youth is discussed. The final part of the presentation identifies four goals that Virginia will address to promote kinship care and lists kinship care resources.

[Oregon Foster Family Home Study]: Oregon Administrative Ruled. Chapter 413, Department of Human Services, Children, Adults and Families Division: Child Welfare Programs. Certification Standards for Foster Parents, Relative Caregivers and Pre-Adoptive Parents. Or. Admin. R. 413-200-0301 (2010)
Oregon. Laws, Statutes, etc.
2010
These rules apply to any individual requesting a Certificate of Approval, any individual who has a current Certificate of Approval, or any individual who is requesting re-certification to provide immediate, temporary, or permanent care for a child or young adult in the care or custody of the Department. The individual may be an adult related to the child, an unrelated adult with an existing relationship to the child, or an adult unrelated and unknown to the child.

The Effects of Kinship Care on Adult Mental Health Outcomes of Alumni of Foster Care.
Fechter-Leggett, Molly O. O'Brien, Kirk.
2010
Children and Youth Services Review
32 (2) p. 206-213
Kinship foster care is emerging into the dominant preferred placement type for out-of-home care, exceeding traditional foster care and group care. The push towards kinship foster care has brought up questions as to whether kinship foster care can better provide for the short- and long-term emotional

needs of children in care. This study examined the effects of kinship foster care on adult mental health outcomes of former foster children. Data were drawn from the Casey National Alumni Study and included case record data on 1582 alumni and interviews of 1068 alumni. The adjusted response rate was 73%. Logistic regression was used to compare several patterns of placements in kinship care and their impact on mental health functioning in the year prior to interview. Results indicated that long-term kinship care alone does not result in more positive adult mental health as measured by ten specific mental health outcomes when demographics, risk factors, and foster care experiences were controlled. However, a variety of other in-care factors were identified that were associated to positive mental health functioning. (Author abstract)

Vermont's Grassroots Perspective on Kinship.
Granger, Lynn.
New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors.
Vermont Kin As Parents.
2010
Common Ground (New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors)
25 (1) p. 1, 5
This article highlights the efforts of the Vermont Kin As Parents (VKAP) program, an initiative committed to supporting relatives who are raising children and educating the public and community partners about the joys and difficulties these families experience. Services provided by VKAP are described, as well as its support for State legislation implementing subsidized guardianship.

Engaging and Supporting Relative Caregivers.
North Carolina. Division of Social Services. North Carolina Family and Children's Resource Program.
2010
Children's Services Practice Notes
16 (1) p. 1-9
Intended for child welfare workers in North Carolina, this brief discusses strategies for engaging and supporting relative caregivers. It begins by citing statistics that highlight the benefits of kinship care over nonrelative foster care and then offers practical suggestions for meeting policy and legal standards for searching for and giving adequate notice to extended family when children enter foster care in North Carolina. A following section discusses promoting practices for overcoming hurdles to supporting kinship caregivers, including connecting relative caregivers to services, preparing kinship caregivers, and providing kin caregivers with information about assistance programs and eligibility. A kinship caregiver benefits checklist is provided, as well as a list of tips for kinship caregivers. 21 references.
http://www.practicenotes.org/v16n1.htm
http://www.practicenotes.org/v16n1/cspnv16n1.pdf

Public Care and Kinship Care (chapter in The Wellbeing of Children in Care: A New Approach for Improving Developmental Outcomes).
Owusu-bempah, Kwame.
University of Leicester, UK.
2010
The dichotomy between formal and informal kinship foster care is explored as well as the implications of this dichotomy for the children and families involved. Definitions of kinship care, reasons for kinship care, legal and policy issues in kinship care, and research findings on kinship care in the United Kingdom and Spain are shared.

Advocating for Children in Foster and Kinship Care: A Guide to Getting the Best out of the System for Foster Parents, Relative Caregivers, and Practitioners.
Rosenwald, Mitchell. Riley, Beth N.
Barry University.
2010
This book offers strategies for effectively advocating for youth in foster and kinship care, paying special attention to the consequences of the trauma youth may experience. Advocacy must be consistent

throughout a child's assignment and adjustment, and this text teaches practitioners the best methods for assessing a family's abilities and level of commitment, while guiding families through the various challenges of the foster care system. Part one details the important steps that potential foster parents and kinship caregivers should consider, with the assistance of practitioners, when contemplating caring for youth. Part two addresses advocacy within service providers, such as family court, social service agencies, schools, and the medical and mental health establishments. Part three describes lobbying for agency and legislative change, as well as change within a given community. Case examples ground recommendations in concrete contexts, and an entire chapter discusses how to broker a successful partnership between practitioners, families, and other disciplinary teams. (Author abstract)

Understanding Birthparent Involvement in Kinship Families: Influencing Factors and the Importance of Placement Arrangement.
Green, Yolanda R. Goodman, Catherine C.
2010
Children and Youth Services Review
32 (10) p. 1357-1364
Birthparent involvement within informal and formal kinship families is examined using cross-sectional data from a National Institute on Aging funded survey of 351 custodial grandmothers. Specifically the research addressed two questions: What are the patterns of parental involvement in kinship families? What contextual and family factors are related to parental involvement in kinship families? Using cluster analysis, three distinct subgroups of birthparents were identified: those with high involvement (30%); moderate involvement (35%), and low birthparent involvement (35%). Study results indicated that birthparents were twice as likely to be in the high involvement subgroup compared to the moderate and low subgroups if there was an informal kinship arrangement; and they were 39% more likely when there was a closer relationship between the grandmother and birthparent. Implications for professionals working to improve this relationship when possible are discussed. (Author abstract)

A Typology of Kinship Foster Families: Latent Class and Exploratory Analyses of Kinship Family Structure and Household Composition.
Zinn, Andrew.
2010
Children and Youth Services Review
32 (3) p. 325-337
Using a combination of survey and administrative data describing 458 public kinship foster family placements in Illinois, this study uses latent class analysis to develop a typology of kinship foster families based on indicators of family structure and household composition. Kinship family types are then compared on other kinship family characteristics. Results of the latent class analysis suggest that the kinship family population in Illinois consists of at least 4 distinct subpopulations, whose defining attributes include the number and age of co-resident, non-foster children and the way in which kinship parents are related to the foster children in their care. Comparisons of these subpopulations suggest statistically significant differences with respect to several kinship family characteristics, including perceived fostering competence. Implications for kinship family scholarship, policy, and practice are discussed. (Author abstract)

In the Interests of the Child: Kinship Care (chapter in The Wellbeing of Children in Care: A New Approach for Improving Developmental Outcomes).
Owusu-bempah, Kwame.
University of Leicester, UK.
2010
The disadvantages and advantages of kinship placement are discussed, as well as theoretical perspectives of kinship placement. The relationship between the theory of socio-genealogical connectedness and kinship care is explained and it is concluded that in kinship placement children are socialized by and feel connected to their kin and their hereditary roots.

Kinship Caregivers and the Child Welfare System
Factsheet for Families
Child Welfare Information Gateway
2010
Informal and formal kinship care arrangements help to ensure stability and protection for children within their extended family. This fact sheet describes the benefits of kinship care as a child protection alternative and examines the agency's responsibility for the placement. The placement decision-making process, what to expect from the child welfare service and court system, and financial support, available services, and permanency planning are discussed. Questions for new kin caregivers to ask and a list of additional references are provided.
http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_kinshi/index.cfm
http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_kinshi/f_kinshi.pdf

Kinship Care in New York: Keeping Families Together: 2010 Kinship Summit Report.
New York State Kincare Coalition.
2010
Sponsoring Organization: New York Life Foundation. AARP Foundation.
This report explains the cost benefits of informal kinship care for children and youth involved in child welfare services in New York State. Information is provided that indicates the average costs of one child placed in regular foster care is $21,535, and $6,490 per child in informal kinship care, a cost difference of $15,045. The report states that if the Office of Children and Family Services kinship programs are not funded, an estimated 475 children will leave informal kinship care and enter foster care during FY 2011-12, at an increased costs between $23,545,570 (for all foster care placements) or $7,146,375 (compared to regular foster parent care). Facts on kinship care in New York are listed and it is concluded that public assistance and kinship services provide a cost effective alternative to foster care.
http://www.cccaregivers.org/Kinship-Cost-Benefit-2010.pdf

'I Made Some Mistakes . . . But I Love Them Dearly' The Views of Parents of Children in Informal Kinship Care.
Gleeson, James P. Seryak, Claire M.
2010
Child and Family Social Work
15 (1) p. 87-96
In-depth semi-structured interviews with 30 parents of children living with relatives in informal kinship care arrangements revealed the parents' views of the reasons for the informal kinship care arrangements, quality of their relationships with the children and their caregivers, their current and future roles in their children's lives, feelings experienced when with and away from the children, positive and negative aspects of kinship care, future goals and dreams for their children, and their assessments of their own strengths and challenges. Results of these interviews suggest several implications for social work practice and research. (Author abstract)

Let's Help Caregivers and Children in Informal Kinship Care: De Facto Custodian Legislation.
Gibson, Priscilla A. Singh, Shweta.
University of Minnesota.
2010
Child Welfare
89 (3) p. 79-97
Caregivers in informal kinship care encounter numerous difficulties when lacking a legal relationship with the children in their care. The de facto custodian guardianship, a concept that is relatively unknown in social work, provides an additional legal option to caregivers by allowing them to present their caregiving history during custody hearings. This article introduces the significance of the de facto concept and provides detailed information on its components and limitations. Recommendations are forwarded for social education and practice.

Knowing Limits: Finding the Right Match Between the Children in Care and the Foster Parents and Kinship Caregivers. (Chapter 2 in Advocating for Children in Foster and Kinship Care: A Guide to Getting the Best out of the System for Foster Parents, Relative Caregivers, and Practitioners.)
Rosenwald, Mitchell. Riley, Beth N.
Barry University.
2010
Strategies for determining the type and level of fostering to provide are discussed, as well as strategies for assessing fostering preferences, identifying comfort level with fostering children with major medical needs, and determining comfort level with fostering children with mental health needs. Steps for considering the needs of the children, analyzing the context in which foster care is going to be provided, developing a fostering plan, and implementing the plan are addressed. Discussion questions are included. 3 tables.

Advocacy in Interdisciplinary Teams. (Chapter 7 in Advocating for Children in Foster and Kinship Care: A Guide to Getting the Best out of the System for Foster Parents, Relative Caregivers, and Practitioners.)
Rosenwald, Mitchell. Riley, Beth N.
Barry University.
2010
This chapter discusses how the multidisciplinary team can help parents with the complex challenges of advocating for youth in foster and kinship care. It explores how foster parents, kinship parents, and practitioners can effectively advocate for children by being members of interdisciplinary teams and addresses potential obstacles to maximum team functioning. Additionally, it examines the important skills of collaboratively evaluating children's progress as a vital aspect of teamwork. Discussion questions are included. 1 figure and 5 tables. (Author abstract modified)

The Emotional Journey of Relative Care Giving.
Tip Sheets: Quick References for Parents.
Adoption Resources of Wisconsin. Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center (Wis.).
2010
This tip sheet acknowledges the difficulties faced by relative caregivers when a child is placed in their home and the emotional ups and downs they may experience. Feelings of comfort, pride, patience, inspiration, encouragement, happiness, love, compassion, and hope are identified, as well as emotional lows such as fear, anger, guilt, sacrifice, loss and disappointment, frustration, sadness, confusion, embarrassment, and isolation. Relative caregivers are urged to recognize that the behaviors of the biological parent are not necessarily a reflection on them and to contact a local support group or counselor if they need help. A list of resources is provided.
http://wiadopt.org/Portals/WIAdopt/Tipsheets/TakingCare/Emotions.pdf

Public Care versus Kinship Care: Psychosocial Developmental Outcomes (chapter in The Wellbeing of Children in Care: A New Approach for Improving Developmental Outcomes).
Owusu-bempah, Kwame.
University of Leicester, UK.
2010
This chapter discusses negative developmental outcomes for children associated with the public care system and presents the new theory of socio-genealogical connectedness. This theory proposes that a sense of socio-genealogical connectedness is an essential factor in children's adjustment to separation and forms the basis of their emotional and mental health.

Kinship Caregivers in the Child Welfare System.
National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being Research Brief ; No. 15.
National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. United States. Administration for Children and Families. Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.
2010
This research brief examines the parenting provided by kinship caregivers to children 10 years old or

younger who have been involved in investigations of child maltreatment; it addresses the following questions: (1) What characterizes families headed by kinship caregivers? How do these characteristics compare with those of families headed by nonkin foster caregivers? (2) What characterizes the kinship caregivers' neighborhoods? How do these characteristics compare with those of nonkin foster caregivers' neighborhoods? and (3) What characteristics generally define parenting by kinship caregivers? How do these characteristics compare with the parenting characteristics of nonkin foster caregivers? (Author abstract)

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/resource/national-survey-of-child-and-adolescent-well-being-no-15-kinship-caregivers
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/rb_15_2col.pdf

Kinship Care: The History of a Name.
Pasztor, Eileen Mayers.
California State University, Long Beach.
2010
Fostering Families Today
p. 20
This article explains that the term "kinship care" derived from Carol Stack's book "All Our Kin: Strategies for Survival in a Black Community," and was first used in a publication by the Child Welfare League of America in 1991 to describe relative care for children in foster care.
http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/download/Kinship%20Care_Best%20Interest%20for%20Children%202010.pdf

Quality Kinship Care: An Evolving Practice.
Miller, Jennifer.
New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors.
2010
Common Ground (New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors)
25 (1) p. 2, 22
Provisions in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act to promote the successful use of kinship care are reviewed, and trends are discussed that relate to the identification and notification of relatives, educating caregivers about their options, and embracing the unique nature of kinship care as an important source of support for child welfare involved families.

Kinship Navigators: The New Child Welfare System.
Wallace, Gerard.
New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors.
2010
Common Ground (New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors)
25 (1) p. 3
This article discusses the inclusion of funding for kinship navigators in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, the awarding of 24 federal grants, and services that are being provided through the grants. Services include information and referral systems, intensive family finding efforts, family group decision-making conferencing, and residential family treatment.

Mental Health Needs in Kinship Care Should Be a Priority.
Point of View.
Friedman, Michael B.
Columbia University.
2010
Mental Health News
12 (4) p. 6 (journal)
This brief discusses the mental health challenges faced by children and adolescents in kinship care and shares recommendations from a workgroup on mental health convened in 2009 and 2010 by the AARP and the New York State Kin Caregiver Coalition. Reasons why kin caregivers provide care are reviewed,

as well as difficulties such caregivers have in accessing mental health services. Steps that can be taken to improve access in New York State are described and include: make kinship care a policy priority, improve the mental health and substance abuse systems, support current efforts to integrate physical and mental health services, focus on mental health promotion, and confront the issue of the relevance of mental disorders to child protection. Specific proposals are made for each step.
http://www.mhnews.org/back_issues/MHN-Fall2010.pdf#zoom=100
http://www.michaelbfriedman.com/mbf/images/stories/mental_health_policy/KINSHIP_MENTAL_HEALTH_NEEDS_Print_Friendly.doc.pdf

A Resource Guide for Kinship Caregivers in Arkansas: What Every Grandparent or Relative Caregiver Needs to Know, When a Parent is Arrested, Incapacitated, or Involved in a Dependency-Neglect Proceeding. 5th Ed.
Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind.
2010
Designed for kinship caregivers in Arkansas, this resource guide provides relative caregivers with information for caring for children separated from their parents. It begins with suggestions from other relative caregivers on caring for children in distress and providing discipline, and describing services provided by Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind, Inc., an organization dedicated to justice for children left behind. Information is then provided on the following topics: school enrollment, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disabilities, and Temporary Employment Assistance. Eligibility requirements for each program and guidelines for applying are reviewed. Additional information is provided on juvenile court dependency/neglect proceedings, kinship foster care, guardianship, power of attorney, adoption, the Families in Need of Services program, State laws governing relative caregivers, behavior management tips, and transitional issues for relative caregivers. Finally, phone numbers are listed for county agencies.
http://www.arkansasvoices.org/uploads/1/4/9/2/14920838/handbook_for_kinship_caregivers.pdf

Kinship Care/Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Related Organizations List
Child Welfare Information Gateway
2010
This resource listing provides the contact information of selected organizations that offer information on kinship care. Each entry includes a brief description of the function of the organization, mailing address, telephone and fax number, e-mail address, and web address.

Annotated reference list provided by Child Welfare Information Gateway www.childwelfare.gov.